

A Guide to the John Steinbeck Collection

John Steinbeck Collection 1934-1962

1934-1962

A Collection in the Clifton Waller Barrett Library of American Literature 6239-e

Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

1997

History

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Title Statement

A Guide to the John Steinbeck Collection

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

6239-e

Language

English

Extent

16 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

Deposit [1963 Dec 17] 1966 Jan 24

Funding Note

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John Steinbeck Collection, Accession 6239-e, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

Item Listing

Letters

John Steinbeckto Wilbur Needham

Unit Date [1934] Apr 4

Extent ALS,1 p.w/env

Scope and Content

[Discusses Needham as a critic, critics in general and use of man's unconscious in his current series of books, particularly [To a God Unknown].]

John Steinbeckto Wilbur Needham

Unit Date [1935 Feb 7]

Extent TLS,2 p.w/env

Scope and Content

[Discusses writing the final draft of a novel [In Dubious Battle], the effect of the loss of one sense upon the others, and Covici-Friede's interest in his work; briefly discusses Needham's deafness, [Ludvig van] Beethoven, having lived in Glendale, Tortilla Flat, [Pascal] Covici, [Robert Oleson] Ballou, Paul Jordan-Smith, [William] Heinemanpublishing To a God Unknown, shorts published in The North American Reviewand English magazines, Cup of Gold, his work requiring "abolish[ing] every vestige of ego," places he would show him were Needham to visit, a plan of work which would require remaking the novel and appreciation for his interest in his work; mentions Pacific Grove, New York City, London, Mexico, Paradise Lost, Lucifer and Monterey.]

John Steinbeckto Wilbur Needham

Unit Date [1935 Fall]

Extent ALS,4 p.w/env

Scope and Content

[Discusses a visit to Mexico City, a dog in Tamazunchale, beggars, Gerald Fitzgeraldhaving some manuscripts Jake Lutherwants to print and his desire that Luther get some better things from McIntosh Otis [Literary Agency]; briefly discusses the death of his father, John Ernst Steinbeckand a book [In Dubious Battle]; mentions Puebla, Pacific Grove, Paseo de la Reforma, Chapultepecand New York City.]

John Steinbeck to Bob Crosby

Unit Date [1935 Oct 22]

Extent

APCS

Scope and Content

[Discusses a trip to Mexico; briefly discusses Crosby's liking "that book," Crosby's illness, lack of a picture, not knowing Texas but liking New Mexico, a mountain rainstorm and an upcoming ceremony at the pyramids of Teotihuacan; mentions Chapultepec.]

John Steinbeck to Wilbur Needham

Unit Date [1936 Jan 3]

Extent

APCS

Scope and Content

[Discusses a forwarded manuscript, needed house repairs, recent return from a trip [to Mexico] and a new book [In Dubious Battle].]

John Steinbeck to Wilbur Needham

Unit Date [1936 Feb 12]

Extent

APCS

Scope and Content

[Discusses a "tampered" review, a review in The Worker, [Carol Henning Steinbeck's] influenza, changes to the house, a new book [In Dubious Battle] and his current work [Of Mice and Men].]

John Steinbeck to Wilbur Needham

Unit Date [1936 May 26]

Extent

APCS

Scope and Content

[Discusses writing for the theater, a book [In Dubious Battle,], [Tortilla Flat], his current work [Of Mice and Men], Carol Henning Steinbeck's building a new house in Los Gatos, a trip to collect marine specimen, Needham as a reviewer and death of the novel; mentions Ensenada, California, Los Angeles and Santa Monica.]

John Steinbeck to Wilbur Needham

Unit Date [1938 Oct 4]

Extent

APCS

Scope and Content

[Discusses a review by Needham, "this blasted book" [The Grapes of Wrath] and the rapid passing of time.]

John Steinbeckto [Merle] Armitage

Unit Date 1939 Feb 17

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses [Edgard] Varese's interest in his work from a musical standpoint and the Grapes of Wrath as a "symphony"; briefly discusses where he and Armitage first met and his health; mentions Edward [Henry] Weston, Ritchie Lovejoy, Eagle Rock and The Viking Press.]

John Steinbeckto Wilbur [Needham]

Unit Date [1939 Jun 6]

Extent TL,1 p.w/env

Scope and Content

[Discusses reviews by Needham and Larry [Lawrence Clark Powell] in [Black & White], a back injury, [Harry Thornton] Moore's account of his work and Will Geer's interest in Ella Winter; mentions Hollywood.]

John Steinbeckto Wilbur [Needham]

Unit Date [1939 Dec]

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses critics "beginning to work me over," a "nightmarish year," his pictures [Of Mice and Men and The Grapes of Wrath] and preparation for next year's work, Black & White.]

John Steinbeckto [Merle] Armitage

Unit Date 1940 May 10

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses not wanting his letter printed, a hectic life and the war [World War II].]

John Steinbeckto Wilbur [Needham]

Unit Date [1940 Sep 28]

Extent ALS,2 p.w/env

Scope and Content

[Discusses biology as an escape from the "insane" world of men, whom he compares to lemmings; sees [World War II] as a species pattern not unlike bees; briefly discusses a trip to New York, being very busy, his defeatist attitude, avoiding politics and the "invertebrate book" [Sea of Cortez]; mentions [Wendall Lewis] Willkie and Norway.]

John Steinbeckto Merle [Armitage]

Unit Date 1941 Dec 31

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses his refusal to do a forward to Edward [Henry] Weston's book [Fifty Photographs: Edward Weston], life in Eagle Rock.]

John Steinbeck to H. Kauti

Unit Date 1953 Feb 16

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses some lost slips and lack of a picture.]

John Steinbeck to Merle Armitage

Unit Date 1958 Dec 1

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses the French liking for The Short Reign of Pippin IV, [Charles] de Gaulle's upsurge causing censor problems for a proposed French movie of it and French humor versus American humor; mentions [Isabelle Heyman Armitage] and [World War II].]